



WYOMING PREMIUM HEIFER PROGRAM

This joint venture between the University of Wyoming's Department of Animal Science, the Wyoming Business Council's Agribusiness Division, and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association is designed with the sole intent of creating an expanded marketing opportunity for commercial heifers, both replacement and bred. The program, cattle listings, and special sales will be promoted through industry publications across the country. The program's intent is to develop heifers according to the guidelines set forth that will provide a valuable product to the replacement market. Therefore, our objectives are:

1. To increase the education and awareness of heifer development practices that will result in optimum reproductive efficiency of mature cows.
2. To add value, promote, and increase nationally the marketing opportunities for Wyoming produced heifers.
3. To increase opportunities for beef producers nationally, to purchase the quality beef replacement females that are produced in Wyoming and under the protocol of this program.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Enrollment

To enroll producers need to complete the annual application to John Henn, 214 W. 15th St., Cheyenne WY 82002. The application can be downloaded off of the Wyoming Beef Cattle List web site at www.wyobeef.com.

There will also be a \$2 per head charge for certified heifers which includes the official Wyoming Premium Heifer Program visual tag. The visual tag must be placed in the left ear prior to the delivery to be certified in the program. To order the program tags contact John Henn. For tag fees make check payable to the Wyoming Business Council. Left over tags can be used in the following year.

Ownership

Heifers must be owned by a person or entity that resides in Wyoming. Ranches with multiple divisions in differing states are also eligible for the program as long as one of their divisions resides in Wyoming and heifers to be marketed in the Wyoming Premium Heifer Program are owned by an enrolled producer 60 days prior to breeding or sale date for replacement heifer calves.

Heifers purchased out-of-state by Wyoming producers are eligible for the program as long as the animal meets all requirements, and has been owned by a Wyoming producer for at least 60 days prior to the breeding season for heifers entering the bred female program, or prior to sale date for replacement heifer calves.

Requirements

Minimum vaccination requirements

Producers are encouraged to work with their local veterinarian to develop a comprehensive herd health program.

- 1) All heifers must have received Brucellosis (Bangs) vaccination in accordance with state and federal laws.
- 2) Heifers must be vaccinated and given a booster for IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, and 7-way clostridia at weaning with a modified live vaccine.
- 3) Heifer calves must be weaned a minimum of 45 days prior to delivery date.
- 4) Heifers for breeding must be booster vaccinated against Leptospirosis (5-way) and Vibriosis and must be given between 30-60 days prior to breeding (see Appendix for brand names).

Pregnancy examination

Heifers must be pregnancy tested by a licensed veterinarian no more than 60 days prior to delivery. Breeding dates (A.I. or natural service) and expected calving dates must be reported in the Marketing Form which can be downloaded from www.wyobeef.com. Any heifer that fails to become pregnant or loses a pregnancy after the original breeding season is ineligible for the program. The consignor guarantees bred heifers to be safe in calf at the time of delivery. If a heifer is proven by a veterinary exam within 7 days after delivery to be open the buyer must: 1) Contact the marketing agent directly, 2) Procure a signed statement of fact from a licensed veterinarian; 3) Reach an agreement with the marketing agent and consignor as to the settlement procedure.

SALE DATES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The sale of bred heifers and replacement heifer calves from the Wyoming Premium Heifer Program will be special internet video/video. The sale will be in the fall of 2016. The Marketing Form needs to be completed for the web site listing of heifers since this will serve as an online sales catalog. The form can be obtained by contacting John Henn.

Program ID Tag: Heifers must have the visual official program ID tag prior to delivery. The official program ear tags will be sent to each producer once the enrollment and tag fees have been paid. Tags need to be put in heifers prior to delivery.

Implants and MGA: Use of implants is discouraged at branding. If heifers are implanted, only FDA approved products for replacement heifers are allowed according to label guidelines. Use of MGA for synchronization purposes is allowable. However, MGA should not be fed for more than 14 days.

Blemishes and structural soundness: Heifers with active cases of pink-eye or scares as a result of pink-eye or have warts are ineligible for the sale. Horns and scurs must be removed and healed by sale date. Evaluate feet and legs for soundness. Heifers with excessively bad dispositions are extremely discouraged.

Weight and Body Condition: Bred heifers need to have a body condition score between a 5 to 7 (1-9 scale) on sale day.

Brown and Gold Levels – Bred Heifers

Brown 1. All heifers eligible for the program automatically qualify for Brown 1 classification.

Gold 2. To be eligible for **Gold 2**, heifers must meet all of the Brown 1 requirements, be tested for BVD-PI, and be AI bred to qualifying known sires. Sires must have a direct calving ease in the top 25% of the breed.

Heifers that are bred artificially must not be exposed to a cleanup bull for 15 days post-AI to be eligible for Gold 2, with a total breeding season not to exceed 45 days (including the 15 day post-AI period).

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**Wyoming Premium Heifer Program
Timeline, Procedures, and Data Collection**

<i>Bred Heifers/Replacement Heifers</i>	<i>Bred Heifers</i>			<i>Bred Heifers/Replacement Heifers</i>
Fall of 2015 or 2016 Weaning/Post Weaning Replacement and Bred Heifers	Spring of 2016 Pre-Breeding Bred Heifers	Spring/Summer 2016 Breeding Bred Heifers	Fall 2016 Pregnancy Exam	Summer/Fall 2016 Pre-Sale
<p><u>Required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination and booster- IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, clostridial (modified live), brucellosis • Calves weaned 45 days prior to delivery date • Evaluate and sort for quality and structural soundness <p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat for parasites 	<p><u>Required:</u></p> <p><u>Brown 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures: All required for replacement heifers, check weight, BCS (30-60 days prior to breeding) • Vaccinations IBR, BVD, PI3, lept, vibrio, clostridial, (modified live) <p><u>Gold 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BVD-PI testing 	<p><u>Required:</u></p> <p><u>Brown 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural service sire registry number • AI and sire information • Breeding Season dates <p><u>Gold 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI and sire information • 15 days from AI to bull turn-out • 45 day breeding season (max) 	<p><u>Required:</u></p> <p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <p><u>Brown 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy status (within 60 days of delivery) • Expected calving intervals <p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Brown 1 treat for parasites <p><u>Gold 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat for internal and external parasites 	<p><u>Required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order program tags • Submit Marketing Form with data • Evaluate for quality and structural soundness <p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCS 5-7 (bred heifers) • Check weight

Appendix A

Recommended Added Value Practices

No ear mark (looked upon by buyers as frozen ears)
Tags in left ear only
No frozen ears or tails
Provide historical carcass data
Treat for external and internal parasites (required for Gold 2)
Test for BVD-PI (required for Gold 2)

Required Documentation (Mail to John Henn):

AI and NS breeding dates, clean-up bull turnout date
Vaccination and parasite control receipts
Weaning date for heifer calves
Brucellosis certificate
Pregnancy documentation
NS sires registry numbers
AI sires and EPD information
BVD-PI lab results